

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 1, 2009
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 18, 2009
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 6, 2009
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 15, 2009
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 2, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 979

Introduced by Assembly Member Tom Berryhill

February 27, 2009

An act to add Sections 1020 and 1021 to the Fish and Game Code, relating to fish and game.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 979, as amended, Tom Berryhill. Hunting or fishing: local regulation.

The California Constitution provides for the delegation to the Fish and Game Commission of powers relating to the protection and propagation of fish and game. Existing statutory law delegates to the commission the power to regulate the taking or possession of birds, mammals, fish, amphibia, and reptiles in accordance with prescribed laws. Under existing law, the Department of Fish and Game exercises various functions with regard to the taking of fish and game. Under existing law, a city or county exercises certain limited authority with regard to the regulation of fish and game for the protection of public health and safety.

This bill would provide that the state fully occupies the field of hunting and fishing, ~~but permits~~. The bill would ~~provide that nothing in the bill would preclude~~ *prohibit* a city or county ~~to adopt~~ from adopting an ordinance or regulation ~~within its territorial jurisdiction that indirectly impacts~~ *that affects* the taking of fish and game, ~~if unless~~ the ordinance or regulation is both necessary for public health and safety and ~~has only indirectly impacts~~ *an incidental impact on* the field of hunting and fishing preempted by state law. The bill would also provide that unless otherwise authorized by the Fish and Game Code or other state or federal law, the commission and the department are the only entities that may adopt or promulgate regulations regarding the taking of fish and game on any lands or waters within the state, except as specified.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 1020 is added to the Fish and Game Code,
2 to read:
3 1020. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
4 following:
5 (1) The California Supreme Court in *In re Makings* (1927) 200
6 Cal. 474, determined that Section 25½ of Article IV of the
7 California Constitution, as currently set forth in Section 20 of
8 Article IV, prohibits local governmental entities from regulating,
9 or interfering with, fish and game matters and places this
10 responsibility with the Legislature in order to conserve California's
11 fish and wildlife populations and permit the largest use of fish and
12 game compatible with the reasonable protection thereof.
13 (2) The Fish and Game Commission was established in 1870
14 to assist in the science-based management of California's fish and
15 wildlife resources. The California Constitution permits the
16 Legislature to delegate to the commission certain powers relating
17 to the management of fish and game, and the Legislature has
18 delegated to the commission regulatory powers over the taking
19 and possession of fish and game, as set forth in this code.
20 (3) Hunting and fishing are statistically among the safest outdoor
21 recreational activities, particularly as they relate to impacts on the
22 general public, and are already well regulated by the state through

1 mandatory safety requirements, weapons laws, and regulations
2 adopted by the commission. Additional local regulation is both
3 unnecessary and significantly impedes the uniform, science-based
4 administration of fish and game laws. Hunting and fishing activities
5 are also compatible with other recreational uses on many public
6 lands and waters throughout the state.

7 (b) In enacting this section and Section 1021, it is the intent of
8 the Legislature to affirm, subject to applicable state and federal
9 law, the exclusive legal authority granted to the commission and
10 the department with regard to the taking and possession of fish
11 and game and thereby ensure necessary comprehensive statewide
12 control by the commission and the department over all fish and
13 game matters for wildlife conservation purposes and the protection
14 of, and access to, hunting and fishing opportunities for *private*
15 *landowners and the public*.

16 SEC. 2. Section 1021 is added to the Fish and Game Code, to
17 read:

18 1021. (a) (1) The state fully occupies the field of hunting and
19 fishing pursuant to this code, regulations adopted by the
20 commission pursuant to this code, and Section 20 of Article IV of
21 the California Constitution, and all local ordinances and regulations
22 are subject to this section.

23 ~~(2) Nothing in this section or Section 1020 precludes a city or~~
24 ~~county from adopting an ordinance or regulation within its~~
25 ~~territorial jurisdiction that indirectly impacts the taking of fish and~~
26 ~~game, if the ordinance or regulation is both necessary for public~~
27 ~~health and safety and only indirectly impacts the field of hunting~~
28 ~~and fishing preempted by state law. The ordinance shall~~

29 *(2) A city or county shall not adopt an ordinance or regulation*
30 *that affects the taking of fish and game unless the ordinance or*
31 *regulation is both necessary for public health and safety and has*
32 *only an incidental impact on the field of hunting and fishing*
33 *preempted by state law. The ordinance or regulation shall not*
34 *indiscriminately extend or apply to any areas where the taking of*
35 *fish and game may occur without endangering public health and*
36 *safety nor to any lands or waters owned or managed by the state*
37 *or federal government.*

38 (b) The commission, the department, or any other governmental
39 entity legally authorized to affect the taking of fish and game on
40 navigable waters held in public trust shall, to the extent possible,

1 ensure that the fishing and hunting rights of the public guaranteed
2 under Section 25 of Article I of, and Section 4 of Article X of, the
3 California Constitution, are protected in a manner consistent with
4 those provisions.

5 (c) (1) Unless otherwise authorized by this code or other state
6 or federal law, the commission and the department are the only
7 entities in this state that shall adopt or promulgate regulations
8 regarding the taking of fish and game on any lands or waters within
9 the state.

10 (2) Nothing in this section or Section 1020 prohibits a
11 landowner, including a regional park or open-space district formed
12 pursuant to Article 3 (commencing with Section 5500) of Chapter
13 3 of Division 5 of the Public Resources Code on land the district
14 owns in fee, leases, manages, or holds an easement in, or the
15 landowner's designee from restricting the taking of fish and game
16 in a manner consistent with state law on property in which the
17 landowner has an ownership interest. *public or private landowner;*
18 *or the landowner's designee, from regulating public access or*
19 *enforcing reasonable safety measures on property that the*
20 *landowner owns in fee, leases, manages, holds an easement in, or*
21 *otherwise lawfully controls, in a manner consistent with state law.*